(c) whether the shortage of LPG has been totally eliminated, as assured by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage. Information on total FIRs registered and their disposal is being collected.

(b) OMCs have taken action against 3154 LPG distributors in the country during the last three years under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement.

(c) There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country. Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. As on 1.5.2007, no shortage of LPG has been reported by OMCs in any part of the country.

Strike by Federation of All India Petroleum Traders

4389. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from April 28 if Government do not give serious thought to their five-point charter of demands;

(b) if so, what are these five-point charter of demands and what is Government's reaction to their demands; and

(c) the steps taken to settle the issue and avoid the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the demands of the Federation are given below:—

(i) The dealers' margin must be fixed at 5% of invoice value.

(ii) The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2005 should be revised to incorporate the outcome of the discussions already held.

(iii) Pending submission of the report of the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, no action should be taken against the dealers for negative stock losses beyond the current permissible limits.

(iv) The Industry is to provide the marker testing equipment to the dealers, in line with the decision conveyed to the dealers when the marker system was introduced.

(v) Appoint an appellate authority where the dealers may make an appeal against the decisions of the officers of oil companies.

The demands of the Federation are under consideration.

Use of ethanol

†4390. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this has been agreed upon that sugar mills of the country would sell ethanol at the rate of Rupees 21.50 per litre;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and whether an annual requirement of five percent mixture have been estimated by Government;

(c) if so, what is the total quantity and the present annual supply of ethanol in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.